

II. Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 7-10, 20-22, 25-29, 31-40, 44-47, 57-59, 62-66, 68-72, and 75-77 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 38, 75, 76, and 77 are independent.

Applicants have amended each of independent Claims 1, 38 and 75-77 for clarity with respect to the specification, and not in response to any statutory requirement for patentability, in order to clarify that the phenolic resin comprises a melting point in the range of from 50°C to 100°C. Support for this amendment may be found from the lower limit from the range in claim 30 and the upper limit from the range in claim 31. Claims 2, 20, 21, 39, 57 and 58 have been amended to adopt the correct Markush language. Claims 1, 38 and 75-77 have been amended to delete the term "substantially completely". Claims 30, 67, 73 and 74 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 31 and 68 have been amended to delete the term "about". It is believed that no new subject matter has been entered by the amendments submitted herewith.

Claims 1-3, 7-10, 20-22, 25-40, 44-47, 57-59 and 62-67 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 (second paragraph), for the reasons set forth at pages 2-3 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection on the ground that the person of ordinary skill in the art would not be confused as to the meaning or scope of the claims. Nevertheless, certain of these

claims have been amended for clarity with respect to the specification and Drawings, and not in response to any statutory requirement.

Claims 1-3, 7-10, 20-22, 25-40, 44-47, 57-59 and 62-67 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by International publication number WO 00/73368 [Wiese et al. (Wiese)], for the reasons set forth at pages 4-5 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully traverse all art rejections.

As the Examiner will note, independent claims 1, 38, 75-77 recite, *inter alia*, that the phenolic resin comprise a melting point of from 50 to 100°C. As acknowledged by the Examiner, Wiese teaches the use of a phenolic resin having a softening point of 104°C to 116°C. As such, Wiese cannot anticipate claims 1, 38 and 75-77.

The Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1-3, 7-10, 20-22, 25-40, 44-47, 57-59 and 62-67 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

In summary, it is believed that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Action to that end is requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3500. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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